

8th Dec '66



RON BURGESS
triumph

AFTER 390 MINUTES . . . A RESULT

★ **T**IME finally ran out for weary Wycombe last night . . . after 390 minutes of thrilling Cup football.

Manager Ron Burgess's Eagles triumphed in their own Eyrie before 8,000 Cup-happy fans and now travel to Oxford in the second round.

But what torment they suffered before this strength-sapping saga finally ended, and the amateurs conceded defeat.

Swoop

Bedford went two goals up, were hauled back to 2-2, and when fans of both teams were contemplating yet more extra time the Southern Leaguers swooped for victory.

Wycombe's mascot, a man dressed up like Father Christmas, paraded across the pitch before the game with a sack over his shoulder. It proved to be an unhappy omen. For Wanderers went on to present Bedford with "gift" goals in the fifth and 16th minutes.

So two goals separated these teams for the first time in their four-match serial.

It soon became obvious that last Monday's match in the mud had taken its toll of the Isthmian League amateurs. Blunder No. 1 came from

Fogg's header ends a saga

By STEVE CURRY

Bedford 3 Wycombe Wanderers

F.A. Cup, First Rd., Third Replay

unhappy centre half Ian Rundle As Danny Paton flashed in a header from Chris Riley's centre, Rundle chasing back, headed into his own net past a stranded goalkeeper.

Ten minutes later came blunder No. 2. Dave Spurrock tried a low shot from the left which John Maskell let slip through nervous fingers, and Chris Riley was on hand to steer the ball home.

Wycombe's spirits drooped visibly, and when they went off at halftime they looked a beaten and demoralised side. But coach Dave Darvill fired new enthusiasm into his team during the interval and they looked a different side in the second half.

Within 30 seconds they had pulled back one goal. A long ball from Len Worley was picked up by Tony Horseman, who shot off the turn to beat Alan Collier in the far corner.

Then hot-shot Horseman silenced the crowd with the equaliser—his 36th goal of the season. Bearded Keith Samuel broke through and his shot cannoned off Collier for Horseman to drive home the rebound then disappear under a frenzy of his own players.

Perfect

The crunch, for Wycombe came in the 75th minute. Bedford broke down the right and a weary defender chased him to the by-line, Danny Paton pulled back a perfect centre for Roy Fogg to head into a corner.

Bedford. — Collier; Morgan, Skinn, Willis, Collins, Cooley, Sturrock, Paton, Riley, Fogg, Benning.
Wycombe. — Maskell; Beck, Royston, Baker, Rundle, Gale, Worley, Samuel, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

F.A. CUP REPLAY

FOGG'S HEADER STEERS BEDFORD THROUGH Gallant Wycombe recovery foiled

Bedford Town 3, Wycombe Wanderers 2

To the players concerned, these four first round F.A. Cup ties between Bedford's professionals and Wycombe's amateurs must have seemed almost interminable. Last Monday's match had to be abandoned just as extra time was about to be played, and the heavy pitches have exacted their toll of the stamina and vitality of two teams, each of which refused to admit the superiority of the other.

Yet if the weather has been a liability, the drawn games have at least provided financial compensation to both clubs. Considerably over 30,000 spectators have paid to watch two evenly matched sides locked in a struggle which lasted six and a half hours before Bedford finally qualified to visit Oxford United in the next round.

SECOND MISFORTUNE

After only five minutes' play at Bedford last night, Riley ran down the left wing for Bedford. He centred the ball to Paton, who headed it goalwards, but Rundle, in attempting to clear, had the misfortune to nod it into the top corner of the Wycombe net. That was the second time this week that the amateurs had given the professionals the encouraging start of an own-goal.

Not long afterwards, Sturrock rounded a slow Royston at full speed and shot for goal from an acute angle. Maskell allowed the ball to slip through his hands and Riley accepted the gift to put Bedford two up. At this stage it looked as though

the amateurs were at last going to be overwhelmed.

Sturrock and Paton were too speedy and clever for Gale and Royston, and most of the Wycombe defensive work was taken over by Baker. He struggled untiringly in his efforts to bring some semblance of cohesion to the play of his colleagues, but, truth to tell, the writing seemed to be on the wall at half-time.

But Wycombe were not finished. Within half a minute of the restart, Horseman spun on the edge of the Bedford penalty area and shot a fine goal on the turn. Six minutes later Samuel dashed through from Worley's pass, Collier smothered his delayed shot, but the alert Horseman followed up to bang in the equalizer. After six hours' play it was still anybody's game.

Wycombe almost took the lead on two occasions before Fogg brilliantly headed in Paton's low centre for the all-important fifth goal of another thrilling match.

BEDFORD TOWN.—Collier; Morgan, Skinn; Willis, Collins, Cooley; Sturrock, Paton, Riley, Fogg, Benning.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS.—I. Maskell; J. Beck, P. Royston; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuel, P. Bates, A. Horseman, L. Merrick.

REFERENCE.—A. E. Diamond (Harrow).